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Message Text

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21
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/062 W
---------- 046517
R 190820Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6184

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2002

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, VN, VS
SUBJECT: CONTACT WITH VIETNAMESE DIPLOMAT

REF: 75 STATE A-6279

1. DURING EARLY PART OF GABONESE NATIONAL DAYO
ILEBRATION ON AUGUST 17, DCM WAS USHERED TO SEAT NEXT TO VIETNAMESE
CHARGE, TRAN HIEN MINH, IN TINY SITTING ROOM WHILE
AWAITING ARRIVAL OF ADDITIONAL GUESTS. THREE MAURITANIANS
WERE ONLY OTHER GUESTS IN ROOM. MINH IMMEDIATELY OPENED
CONVERSATION WHICH LASTED FOR 25 MINUTES. AFTER
VERIFYING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING TO U.S. EMBASSY DCM,
MINH COMMENTED ON "IMPROVED" VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN
RELATIONS. HE SUBSEQUENTLY CITED AS EVIDENCE OF THIS
IMPROVEMENT THE RECENT RELEASE BY VIETNAM OF 29
(MINH'S FIGURE) AMERICANS. DCM ACKNOWLEDGED THIS
DEVELOPMENT, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT OTHER AMERICANS
ARE STILL BEING HELD. MINH WAS ALSO REASONABLY WELL
INFORMED ABOUT AND VERY INTERESTED IN AMERICAN
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

2. MINH COMMENTED THAT HE IS FROM SAIGON, WHERE HE
DID MOST OF HIS STUDIES. HE WENT NORTH AT SOME
UNSPECIFIED DATE. HE SERVED AT VIETNAMESE, PRESUMABLY
PRG, EMBASSY IN ALGIERS FROM 1971-74. BETWEENALGIERS
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AND HIS ARIVAL IN NOUAKCHOTT ABOUT FEBRUARY 1976, HE

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SPENT SOME TIME AT GENEVA. HE SAID HIS FAMILY REMAINS IN SAIGON. MINH SPEAKS FRENCH AND SAYS HEUNDERSTANDS BUT DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH. (WHILE IN ALGIERS HE SAID HE LISTENED TO RADIO ISRAEL IN ENGLISH*) MINH IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET SIX INCHES, IN HIS LATE THIRTIES OR EARLY FORTIES, WEARS GLASSES, IS ROTUND, AND IS BALDING. MINH WAS SURPRISINGLY FRIENDLY AND WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN CONTINUING CONVERSATION.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF REFAIR REPRESENTS LATEST GUIDANCE ON CONTACTS WIT VIENDAMESE OFFICIALS. IF NOT,WE WOULD APPRECIATE REFERENCE FOR MORE CURRENT GUIDANCE OR, AS APPROPRIATE, UPDATED GUIDANCE.

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 19 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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